

Story 2156 (1999 Tape 8)

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Erzurum Province

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Do You See My Donkey, Too?

One day when Nasreddin Hoca¹ was in İstanbul, his donkey strayed away from him. When the Hoca realized his loss, he began searching for the donkey. He searched and searched until the sun was beginning to set. He said to himself, "Let me go to a hotel and get a room for the night. I can continue my search early tomorrow morning." He went to a hotel and registered for a room. He then took his key and went to that room. The Hoca did not know how to handle a bed. At home he had always slept on a pallet. He finally decided to sleep on the floor under the frame of the bed.

Two lovers came to that same hotel and requested a room for the night. The desk clerk carelessly assigned them to the same room he had earlier given to Nasreddin Hoca

The male lover said to his girlfriend, "My darling, when I look into your eyes, I can see all of İstanbul."

Hearing that, Nasreddin Hoca popped his head out from

¹A hoca is the preacher and religious leader of a Muslim community. In pre-Republican times, the hoca was also a teacher, for education then was the responsibility of the clergy. For centuries Nasreddin Hoca has been Turkey's most beloved comic folk character.

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under the bed and asked "Do you see my lost donkey too?"